

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. In an electronic device, a method of notification  
comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a first attention request from a first  
application and associated with a first record entry in said  
first application requiring attention from a user;

10 b) automatically storing said first attention request  
in a memory;

c) automatically sending a first request for  
information to said first application, said information  
associated with said first record entry;

15 d) receiving said information;

e) creating a notification dialog using said  
information; and

f) automatically displaying said notification dialog on  
top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second  
20 application that is active.

2. The method as described in Claim 1, comprising the  
further step of:

determining a plurality of outstanding attention  
25 requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry  
and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding  
attention requests still requiring attention from said user,

said plurality of outstanding attention requests including said first attention request.

3. The method as described in Claim 2, further  
5 comprising the step of deleting from memory each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests that have been cleared and no longer need said user's attention.

10 4. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said step c) comprises the steps of:

determining if any of said plurality of outstanding attention requests have been suspended;

15 requesting said information in a list format if there at least two outstanding attention requests, from said plurality of attention requests, that are not currently suspended, said list format suitable for listing with multiple outstanding attention requests on a display screen of said electronic device; and

20 requesting from each of said plurality of attention requests corresponding information in said list format.

5. The method as described in Claim 4, wherein said notification dialog is a list dialog containing each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests that have not  
25 been suspended in said list format.

6. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said step c) comprises the step of:

requesting said information in detail format if each of said outstanding attention requests except for said first  
5 attention request is suspended, said detail format suitable for singular display on said electronic handheld device.

7. The method as described in Claim 6, wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and pertains to said  
10 first attention request.

8. The method as described in Claim 2, wherein said step c) comprises the step of:

requesting said information in detail format if said  
15 plurality of outstanding attention requests contains only said first attention request.

9. The method as described in Claim 8, wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and pertains only to  
20 said first attention request.

10. The method as described in Claim 1, wherein said electronic device is a palm sized computer system.

25 11. In an electronic device, a method of notification comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a first attention request from a first application and associated with a first record entry in said first application requiring attention from a user;

5 b) automatically storing said first attention request in a memory;

c) determining a plurality of outstanding attention requests wherein each are associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from said user, said plurality of outstanding attention requests including said first attention request;

d) automatically sending a first request for information to said first application, said information being associated with said first record entry;

15 e) receiving said information;

f) creating a first notification dialog using said information; and

20 g) automatically displaying said first notification dialog on top of an on-screen display associated with a second application that is active.

12. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising the further steps of:

25 receiving a display request to display a selected record entry, said selected record entry associated with a selected attention request from said plurality of outstanding attention requests;

automatically switching from said second application to  
a third application, said third application associated with  
said selected record entry;

displaying said selected record entry; and  
5 providing user interface with said selected record entry  
through said second application.

13. The method as described in Claim 12, comprising  
the further steps of:

10 automatically launching said third application; and  
automatically sending said display request to said third  
application.

14. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising  
15 the further steps of:

receiving a request to clear a selected attention  
request, said selected attention request taken from said  
plurality of outstanding attention requests; and

clearing said selected attention request by deleting  
20 said selected attention request from said memory.

15. The method as described in Claim 14, wherein said  
selected attention request is said plurality of outstanding  
attention requests.

25 16. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising  
the further steps of:

h) receiving a request to suspend said plurality of outstanding attention requests;

i) suspending each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests for a predetermined period of time;

5 j) re-activating said second application; and

k) displaying said plurality of outstanding attention requests after said predetermined period of time has elapsed in a second notification dialog.

10 17. The method as described in Claim 11, comprising the further step of:

invoking an alarm simultaneously with step g), said alarm is taken from a group consisting essentially of:

a audible alarm;

15 a visual alarm;

a vibrator;

a flashing light emitting diode (LED); and

flashing said notification dialog between video and reverse video formats.

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18. A computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, and a display screen wherein said memory contains instructions that when executed implement a method of notification comprising the steps of:

25 a) receiving a first attention request from a first application and associated with a first record entry in said first application requiring attention from a user;

b) automatically storing said first attention request in a memory;

c) automatically sending a first request for information to said first application, said information  
5 associated with said first record entry;

d) receiving said information;

e) creating a notification dialog using said information; and

f) automatically displaying said notification dialog on  
10 top of an on-screen display that is generated by a second application that is active.

19. The computer system as described in Claim 18,  
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

15 determining a plurality of outstanding attention requests, each associated with a corresponding record entry and a corresponding application, each of said outstanding attention requests still requiring attention from said user, said plurality of outstanding attention requests including  
20 said first attention request.

20. The computer system as described in Claim 19,  
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

deleting from memory each of said plurality of  
25 outstanding attention requests that have been cleared and no longer need said user's attention.

21. The computer system as described in Claim 19,  
wherein said step c) of said method comprises the steps of:

determining if any of said plurality of outstanding  
attention requests have been suspended;

5 requesting said information in a list format if there at  
least two outstanding attention requests, from said plurality  
of attention requests, that are not currently suspended, said  
list format suitable for listing with multiple outstanding  
attention requests on a display screen of said electronic  
10 device; and

requesting from each of said plurality of attention  
requests corresponding information in said list format.

22. The computer system as described in Claim 21,  
15 wherein said notification dialog is a list dialog containing  
each of said plurality of outstanding attention requests that  
have not been suspended in said list format.

23. The computer system as described in Claim 19,  
20 wherein said step c) of said method comprises the step of:  
requesting said information in detail format if each of  
said outstanding attention requests except for said first  
attention request is suspended, said detail format suitable  
for singular display on said electronic handheld device.

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24. The computer system as described in Claim 23,  
wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and  
pertains to said first attention request.

5 25. The computer system as described in Claim 19,  
wherein said step c) of said method comprises the step of:  
requesting said information in detail format if said  
plurality of outstanding attention requests contains only  
said first attention request.

10 26. The computer system as described in Claim 19,  
wherein said notification dialog is a detailed dialog and  
pertains only to said first attention request.

15 27. The computer system as described in Claim 18,  
wherein said electronic device is a palm sized computer  
system.

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